

FIG. 3D shows a cross-sectional view of a floating contact coupled with DC shield 214 by way of flexible PCB 212 in accordance with section line A-A. Section line A-A runs across a central portion of the floating contact and consequently magnetic shunt 210 runs across a diameter of electrical contact 206. In this way magnetic shunt 210 can be well positioned to prevent a magnetic field emitted by magnet 208 from extending towards DC shield 214 and into the accessory device.

FIG. 3E shows a cross-sectional view of another floating contact coupled with DC shield 214 by way of flexible PCB 212 in accordance with section line B-B. In FIG. 3E tails 302 of electrical contacts 206 are depicted extending all the way to solder pads 308. In this way electrical traces on flexible PCB 212 can be electrically coupled to electrical contact 206 by way of solder pads 308 and tails 302. This allows ground, power or data to pass through electrical contact 206 and over to another electrical device, while bypassing magnet 208 and magnetic shunt 210. Although a particular configuration of four pads and essentially two rings of the spiral attachment features are depicted the spirals and solder pads can be arranged in many other ways and in many other configurations. For example, in some embodiments when a longer floating contact travel is desired flexible PCB 212 can include three or four spirals or rings allowing flexible attachment features 306 to accommodate a much longer range of travel. Similarly, in some embodiments, electrical contacts 206 may only include three feet soldered to three solder pads of outer ring 306a of attachment feature 306.

FIGS. 4A-4B show recessed and engaged positions of connector 200. FIG. 4A shows how a magnetic force 404 acts between magnet 208 of connector 200 and magnet 402 of the electronic device 400. In FIG. 4A magnet 402 is too far away to overcome the magnetic force 406 that operates between DC shield 214 and magnet 208. FIG. 4B shows how once electrical device 400 and particularly magnet 402 get close enough to magnet 208 magnetic force 404 becomes large enough to overcome magnetic force 406. FIG. 4B also shows the spiral configuration assumed by attachment feature 306 of flexible PCB 212, which accommodates the floating contacts movement into the engaged position. As depicted, portions of flexible attachment feature 306 (i.e. inner ring 306b) deform to accommodate the motion of the floating contact towards electronic device 400. Once electronic device 400 engages connector 200, electrical contact 408 of electronic device 400 becomes electrically coupled with electrical contact 206. It should be noted that while electrical contact is shown as having a convex geometry the geometry can alternatively be concave to match a geometry of electrical contact 408. It should also be noted that electronic device 400 can have multiple electrical contacts 408. One electrical contact 408 corresponds to each of electrical contacts 206 of connector 200. In some embodiments, where electrical contact 206 sticks out past a mating surface defined by protective cover 202 the magnetic coupling may push electrical contact 206 back slightly into connector 200 so that an exterior surface of electronic device 400 can also contact the curved surface defined by protective cover 202.

Pogo Pin Embodiments:

FIGS. 5A-5B show pogo pins configured to electrically couple with another electrical contact. FIG. 5A shows a pogo pin 500 with a spring 502 embedded within housing 504. Spring 502 is configured to allow electrical contact 506 to retract into housing 504 of pogo pin 500. Pogo pin 500 can also include spring coupling device 508, which includes a protrusion for mating with spring 502. The convex surface

of spring coupling device 508, which contacts electrical contact 506, is designed to encourage misalignment of spring coupling device 508 and electrical contact 506. This misalignment results in electrical contact 506 being pressed against an interior-facing surface of housing 504. The electrical contact between electrical contact 506 and housing 504 allows electricity and/or data to be transferred from electrical contact 506 to housing 504 and then out of pogo pin 500 entirely by way of electrically conductive pathway 510. Electrically conductive pathway 510 can take the form of one or more wires that carry the power and/or signals to another electrical component for further processing. In some embodiments, multiple pogo pins 500 can be used in a single connector to carry different power levels and signal types. It should be noted that the misalignment created by spring coupling device 508 that establishes a solid connection between electrical contacts 506 and housing 504 prevents the unfortunate situation in which electrical contact 506 remains axially aligned with spring 502 and not in significant contact with housing 504. In the aforementioned axial alignment situation, electricity could be forced to travel through spring 502, and since spring 502 is not designed to carry electricity the risk of a short circuit and/or damage to the spring increases substantially. The spring shape of spring 502 can also add unwanted inductance to any signal transmitted through spring 502. It should also be noted that assembly of pogo pin 500 involves inserting the internal components of pogo pin 500 through a front opening defined by housing 504.

FIG. 5B shows a pogo pin 550 and how a housing 552 of pogo pin 550 can be formed from front housing component 552 and rear housing component 554. This configuration allows insertion of internal components of pogo pin 550 through a rear facing opening of front housing component 552. In such a configuration a front opening defined by front housing component 552 can be a rigid opening that need not be configured to accept internal components. Instead the internal components can be inserted through the rear facing opening defined by front housing component 552. A portion of front housing component 552 can be swaged to produce an annular protrusion configured to engage an annular recess defined by rear housing component 554. The complementary recess and protrusion allows a straight forward fastener-free coupling between front housing component 552 and rear housing component 554. Because the internal components don't need to be inserted through the front opening of front housing component 552, the front opening through which electrical contact 506 extends can be substantially more rigid, thereby reducing the likelihood of electrical contact 506 inadvertently passing through the front opening.

FIGS. 6A-6C show cross-sectional side views of pogo pins with integrated movable magnets. FIG. 6A shows a cross-sectional side view of a pogo pin 600 having an integrated movable magnet 602. Movable magnet 602 is positioned within an interior volume defined by front housing component 604 and rear housing component 606. The interior volume can take the form of a channel along which movable magnet 602 can pass. Movable magnet 602 is coupled to spring coupling device 608, which includes a protrusion that engages one end of spring 610. When an external magnetic field exerts a force upon movable magnet 602 directed towards electrical contact 612, movable magnet 602 slides along the channel to compress spring 610 against a rear-facing surface of electrical contact 612. In this way, movable magnet 602 can be used to augment the force provided by spring 610 when pogo pin 600 is exposed to the external magnetic field.